

REMARKS

I. Status of Application

By the present Amendment, claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-15 and 17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15 and 17 presently stand rejected.

II. Objections to the Title

The title is objected to as allegedly being not descriptive. Without conceding to the merits of the Examiner's objections, Applicant has amended the title according to the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 6 and 14, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 16 are noted and appreciated. By the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16, thereby effectively rewriting claim 16 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in a condition for immediate allowance.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15 and 17 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections.

However, without conceding to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, and merely in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Therefore, claim 1 is immediately

allowable *at least* by virtue of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Moreover, the dependent claims 2-5, 7-13, 15 and 17 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 12, 2009